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DK READERS



Outback Adventure

Australian Holiday

Written by Kate McLeod



A Dorling Kindersley Book



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Models: James Mead, Luke Mead, and Bea Mead

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A Note to Parents and Teachers

DK READERS is a compelling reading programme for children, designed in conjunction with leading literacy experts, including Cliff Moon M.Ed., Honorary Fellow of the University of Reading. Cliff Moon has spent many years as a teacher and teacher educator specializing in reading and has written more than 140 books for children and teachers. He reviews regularly for teachers' journals.

Beautiful illustrations and superb full-colour photographs combine with engaging, easy-to-read stories to offer a fresh approach to each subject in the series. Each DK READER is guaranteed to capture a child's interest while developing his or her reading skills, general knowledge, and love of reading.

The five levels of DK READERS are aimed at different reading abilities, enabling you to choose the books that are exactly right for your child:

Pre-level 1 – Learning to read

Level 1 – Beginning to read

Level 2 – Beginning to read alone

Level 3 – Reading alone

Level 4 – Proficient readers

The “normal” age at which a child begins to read can be anywhere from three to eight years old, so these levels are only a general guideline.

No matter which level you select, you can be sure that you are helping your child learn to read, then read to learn!



James and his little brother Luke were excited because they were going on holiday with their parents. They lived in Perth, Western Australia and were going to Broome, a remote place in the outback.





On holiday, they hoped to go fishing and walking in the bush.

James wanted to catch some big fish, and Luke could not wait to go swimming in the sea.

Broome

Broome is a town on the northwest coast of Australia.

It is famous for the pearls found in the ocean nearby.



When the family arrived in Broome,
they went to a campsite
near the beach.

Straight away they all raced
to the water for a swim.

Then Dad hired a boat
to go fishing.

James was lucky –
he caught four fish.





Dad lit a campfire to cook the fish
for dinner.

They were delicious!



At the beach, the boys discovered giant footprints in the rocks.

“I think it’s a dinosaur’s footprint,” said James excitedly.

“I’ve found one, too!” cried Luke.

“It might be from a Megalosauropus (Me-ga-luh-SORE-uh-pus),” said Mum.





The Megalosauropus lived
in northern Australia.

They were carnivores,
which means they ate meat.



Fossils

Dinosaurs lived
between 230 to 65
million years ago.
Their bones and
footprints turned
hard in rocks to
form fossils.

The next day, the whole family
went bush walking.

Luke discovered two giant mounds
of earth.

They were enormous termite nests.



“Wow,” said Luke.

“Just imagine how many termites live in these huge nests.”

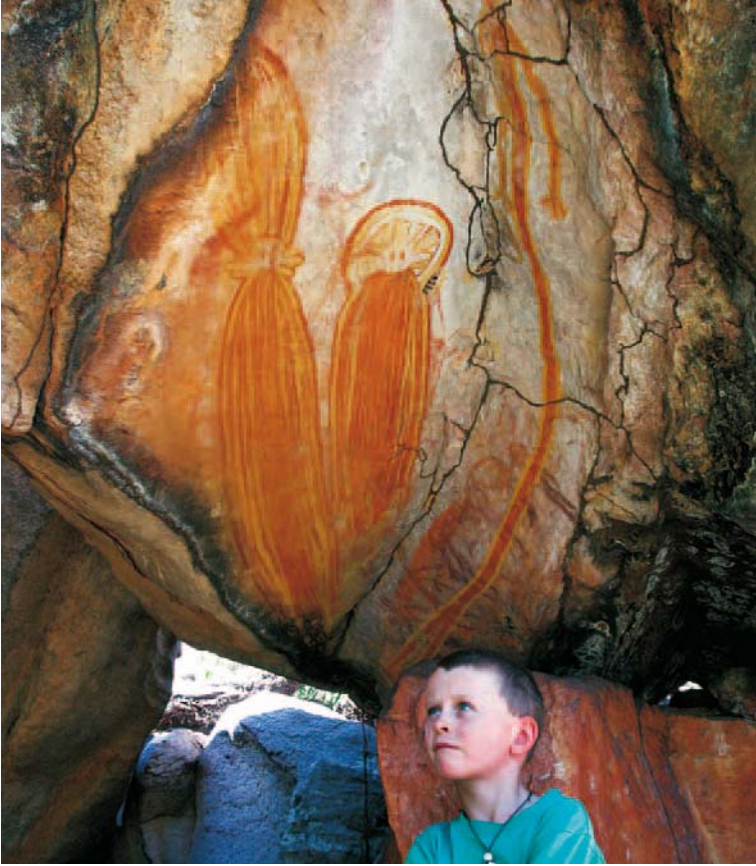
“Thousands,” replied James.

“The nests are like termite blocks of flats.”



Termites

Termites are small insects that feed on wood and plants. They build giant nests above the ground during the wet season.



The boys climbed over some rocks and found a cave.

Inside the cave, there were painted figures on the rocks.

The paintings had been made with red, yellow and white clay.



In the paintings, James could see people hunting.

“These were probably painted thousands of years ago by Australian Aborigines,” explained Mum.

Aborigines

Aborigines have lived in Australia for thousands of years. They hunted animals and gathered berries and plants for food.



The next day, the family went to a beautiful beach in Broome. James and Luke saw horses for hire and asked if they could have a ride. After being helped into the saddles, James and Luke rode their horses through the water and on the beach. At the end of their ride, they saw some other riders.





“Look!” said Luke.

“Those people are riding camels.”

“That must be a bumpy ride!”
replied James.



It was raining the next day, so the family visited the pearling museum. They found out about the history of pearl diving around Broome. They saw old costumes that pearl divers used to wear.

James held a large oyster shell.





Divers used metal helmets to help them breathe under water.

“They look very heavy,” said Luke.

“It must be hard to swim with them on,” James added.



Pearls collected from oyster shells.

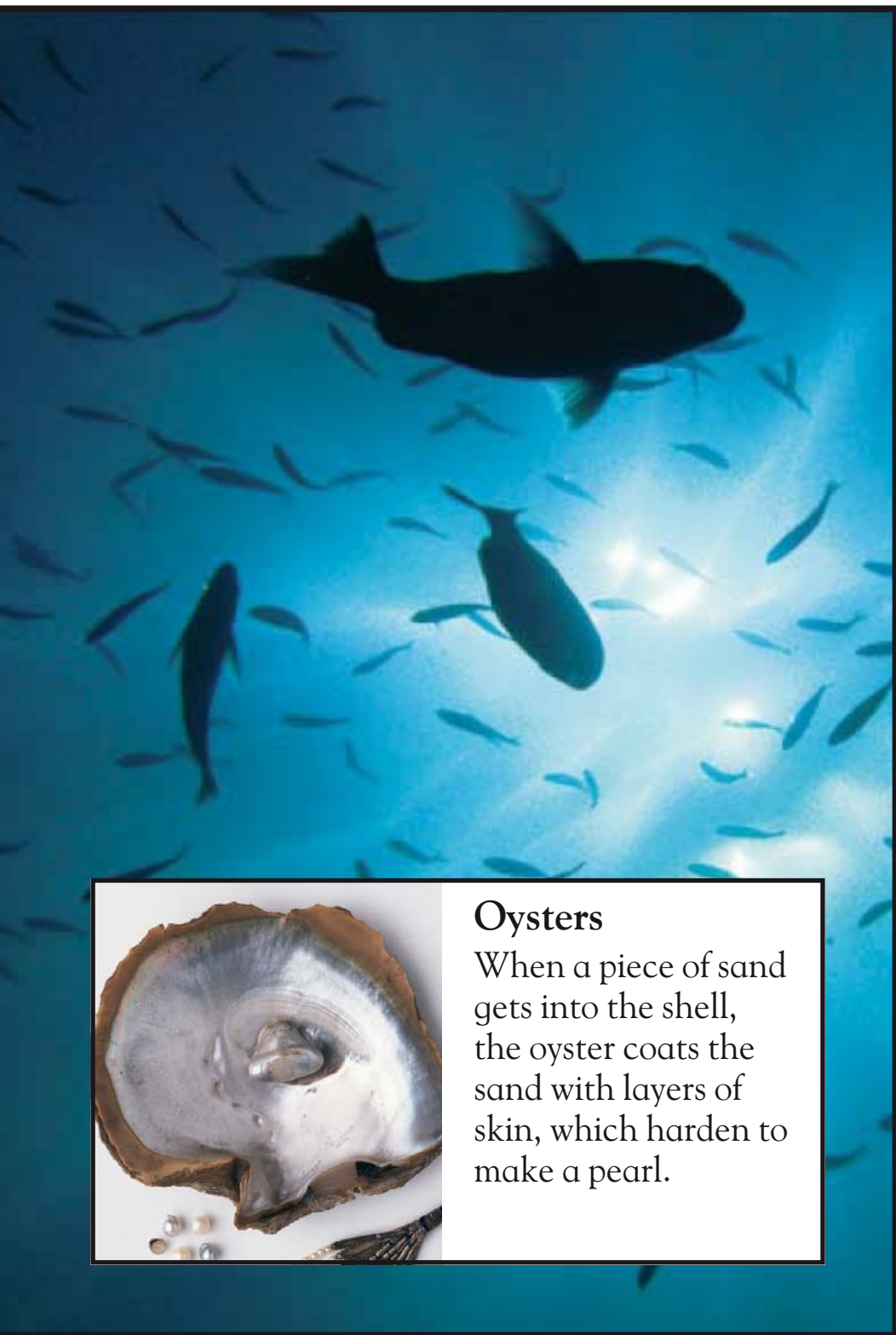
James asked his Dad about pearls.

“They are the oldest precious gem,”
said Dad.

“Oysters grow deep under the water
on the ocean floor,” said Mum.

“Divers jump off boats and swim
down deep to collect the shells.

When they break open the oyster
shells, they hope to find a pearl inside.”



Oysters

When a piece of sand gets into the shell, the oyster coats the sand with layers of skin, which harden to make a pearl.



James and his family went to
a muddy beach to find crabs.
The crabs live in burrows under
the sand and among the rocks.

They come out to find food
on the beach.

When a big crab came out,
James caught it with his hook.
He was careful not to let it pinch
his fingers or toes.



The next day, James and Luke went to an outback station, or farm.

It was a huge cattle station, as big as a city.

James met a boy called Pablo, whose family lived at the station.

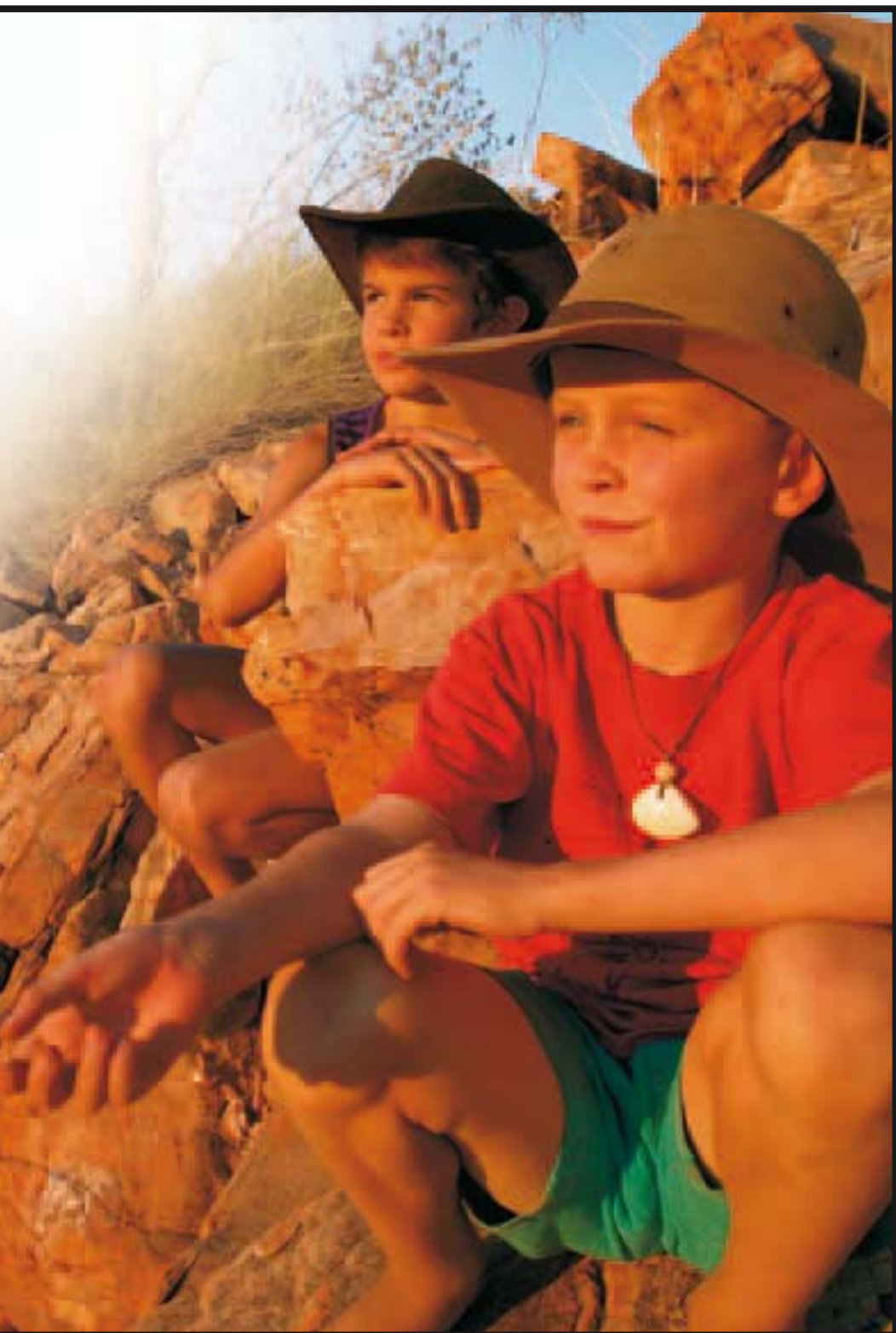
James and Pablo went to watch jackaroos, or cowboys, rounding up the cattle.



Station

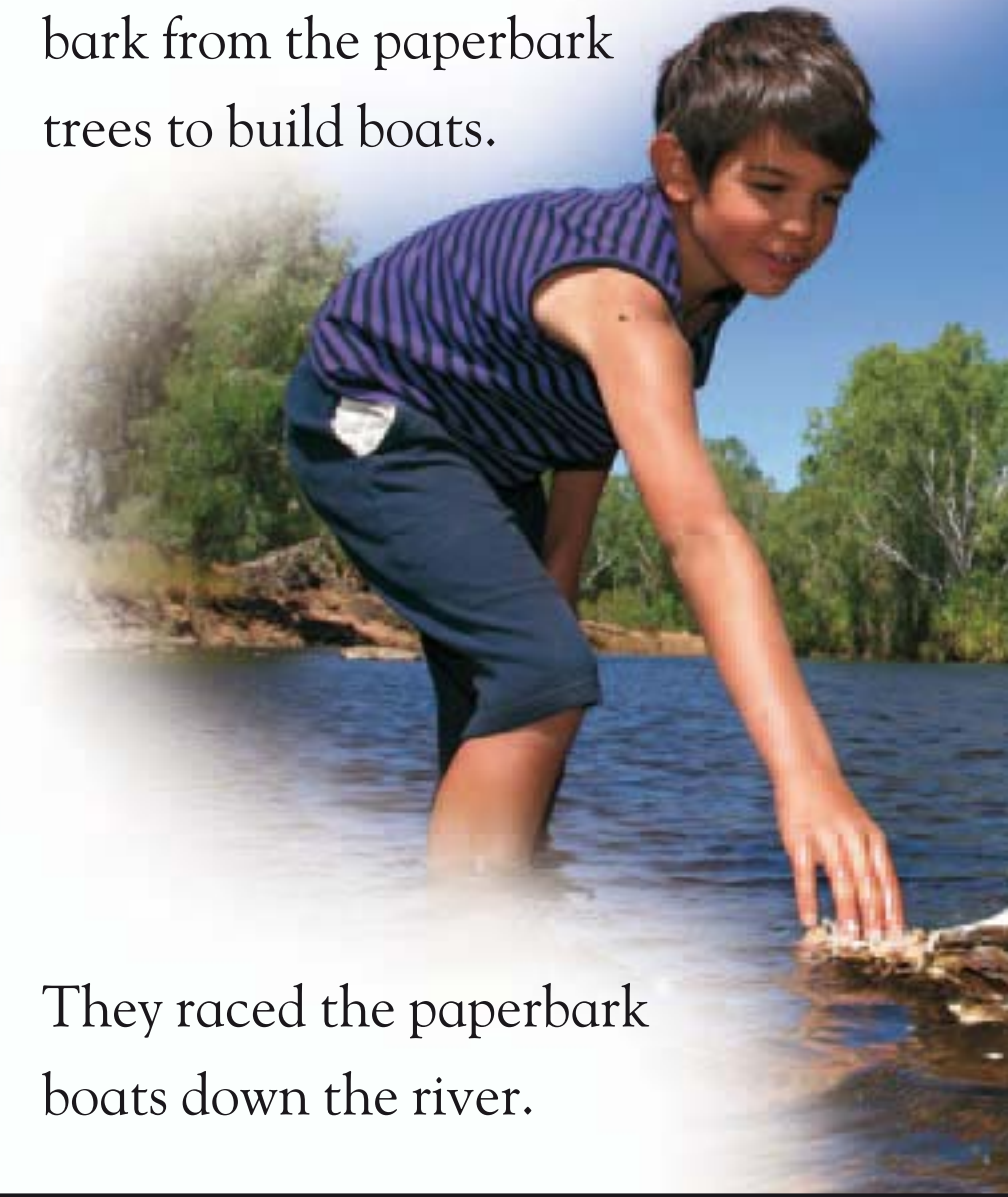
Stations are large farms in outback Australia.

Sheep and cattle are kept on stations, and horses are used to round up the cattle.



James and Pablo had lots of fun exploring the station together. At the river, they used the soft bark from the paperbark trees to build boats.

They raced the paperbark boats down the river.





In the afternoon, James and his family went on a long walk through the bush around the station. It was hot, so they found a billabong, or pool, and jumped in for a swim.





Colourful butterflies
fluttered around the billabong.
“That one looks like a rainbow,”
said Luke.

James, Luke and their parents spent the next day at the Broome Bird Observatory.

The observatory is where scientists catch and count birds, so they can find out how they behave and where they fly to and from.





Hundreds of birds

Over 200 species of birds visit northern Australia every year. They migrate from all over the world.

They watched the scientists catching the birds with netting.

James was even allowed to hold one of the young birds.



On the last day of their holiday,
the family went for a sightseeing
flight in a helicopter.

They flew over massive rocks called
the Bungle Bungles, which the
Aborigines call Purnululu.



“I wish we could stay!” said James.
Mum replied, “We’ll have to come
back soon for more adventures.”

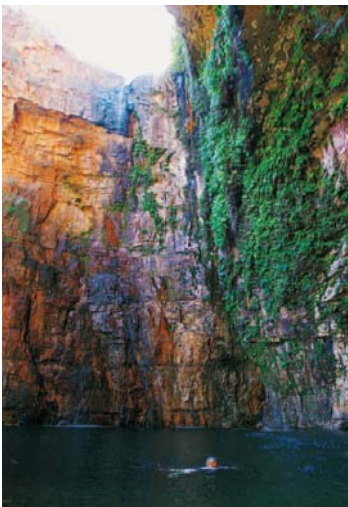


Outback facts

Australia is a big country and not many people live outside the main cities. The huge areas where few people live are called the outback. Usually it is hot, dry and dusty, but if it rains, green grasses and leaves appear and the wild flowers bloom.



A station is a large farm in the outback with thousands of cattle and sheep.



In Australia, people who work with the cattle on the stations are called jackaroos.

Jackaroos usually ride horses or motorbikes to round up the cattle, but on huge stations they use helicopters.

Billabongs are beautiful pools that are found in the outback. They are often surrounded by gum trees and bushes, and are usually close to rivers.

READERS

Level 2

Dinosaur Dinners	Holiday!
Firefighter!	The Story of Pocohontas
Bugs! Bugs! Bugs!	Horse Show
Slinky, Scaly Snakes!	Survivors: The Night the Titanic Sank
Animal Hospital	Eruption! The Story of Volcanoes
The Little Ballerina	The Story of Columbus
Munching, Crunching, Sniffing and Snooping	Journey of a Humpback Whale
The Secret Life of Trees	Amazing Buildings
Winking, Blinking, Wiggling and Wagging	Feather, Flippers and Feet
Astronaut: Living in Space	Outback Adventure: Australian Holiday
Twisters!	LEGO: Castle Under Attack
	LEGO: Rocket Rescue

Level 3

Spacebusters: The Race to the Moon	Heidi
Beastly Tales	Zeppelin: The Age of the Airship
Shark Attack!	Spies
Titanic	Terror on the Amazon
Invaders from Outer Space	Disasters at Sea
Movie Magic	The Story of Anne Frank
Plants Bite Back!	Extreme Sports
Time Traveller	Spiders' Secrets
Bermuda Triangle	The Big Dinosaur Dig
Tiger Tales	LEGO: Mission to the Arctic
Aladdin	

Level 4

Days of the Knights	Dinosaur Detectives
Volcanoes and Other Natural Disasters	Danger on the Mountain: Scaling the World's Highest Peaks
Secrets of the Mummies	Crime Busters
Pirates: Raiders of the High Seas	The Story of Muhammad Ali
Horse Heroes	First Flight: The Story of the Wright Brothers
Trojan Horse	D-day Landings: The Story of the Allied Invasion
Micro Monsters	LEGO: Race for Survival
Going for Gold!	WCW: Going for Goldberg
Extreme Machines	WCW: Feel the Sting
Flying Ace: The Story of Amelia Earhart	WCW: Fit for the Title
Robin Hood	WCW: Finishing Moves
Black Beauty	The Story of the X-Men: How it all Began
Free at Last! The Story of Martin Luther King, Jr.	Creating the X-Men: How Comic Books Come to Life
Joan of Arc	Spider-Man's Amazing Powers
Spooky Spinechillers	The Story of Spider-Man
Welcome to The Globe! The Story of Shakespeare's Theatre	The Incredible Hulk's Book of Strength
Spooky Spinechillers	The Story of the Incredible Hulk
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My name is

I have read this book



Date
